

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the claims:

This Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A sample container for the X-ray analysis of liquids, which container comprises:

a container wall which defines a cavity for receiving a liquid sample, the container wall being constructed so as to be at least locally transparent to X-rays and leaving open an opening at [[the]] a top; and

a cover which is to be arranged on [[the]] a free surface of the liquid sample and is not rigidly connected to the container wall.

2. (Original) A sample container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cover is at least essentially impervious to gas.

3. (Original) A sample container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cover is not absorbent.

4. (Original) A sample container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cover is a foil.

5. (Original) A sample container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cover comprises a polypropylene material.

6. (Original) A sample container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cover is smaller than the opening at the top of the container wall.

7. (Currently Amended) A measuring device comprising:

a sample container for the X-ray analysis of liquids, which container comprises a container wall which forms a cavity for receiving a liquid sample, the container wall being constructed so as to be at least locally transparent to X-rays and leaving open an opening at [[the]] a top, and cover which is configured for arrangement on [[the]] a free surface of the liquid sample and is not rigidly connected to the container wall; and

an X-ray spectrometer for the analysis of a liquid sample accommodated in the sample container.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for the analysis of liquids by means of X-ray spectrometry comprising,

~~in which method introducing a liquid sample is introduced into a sample container~~
comprising a container wall which leaves open an opening at ~~[[the]] a top;[[,]]~~

positioning the sample container ~~is positioned~~ in a sample holder;

providing a cover which is smaller than the opening and freely movable relative to the container walls on a free surface of the liquid sample; and

analyzing ~~[[and]] the liquid sample, is analyzed, wherein prior to the analysis a cover which is freely movable relative to the container walls is provided on the free surface of the liquid sample.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the sample holder is a sample container for the X-ray analysis of liquids, which container comprises a container wall which forms a cavity for receiving a liquid sample, the container wall being constructed so as to be at least locally transparent to X-rays and leaving open an opening at the top, and cover which is configured for arrangement on the free surface of the liquid sample and is not rigidly connected to the container wall.

10. (New) A sample container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cover has a diameter slightly smaller than the container opening and is freely movable relative to the container wall.

11. (New) A measuring device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the cover has a diameter slightly smaller than the container opening and is freely movable relative to the container wall.